

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. Claims 5-8 and 26-29 have been allowed. Claims 1-4 and 9-23 have been rejected. Claims 24 and 25 have been objected to. Claims 1-4, 13, and 16-23 have been canceled by this amendment. Claims 5-12, 14-15, and 24 have been amended by this amendment. Therefore, Claims 5-12, 14-15, and 24-29 are pending in the Application. Reconsideration of the application based on the claims as amended and arguments submitted below is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-4 and 9-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hillstrom. In response to this rejection, the applicant has canceled Claims 1-4 and 13. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn with respect to these claims.

In addition, the applicant has amended Claim 9 so that it now depends from, and includes claim language that is consistent with the claim language used in, Claim 5, which has been allowed by the Examiner. As a result, Claim 9 is now allowable and the rejection of Claim 9 should be withdrawn.

Claims 10-12 and 14-15 have been amended so that they include claim language that is consistent with the claim language used in Claim 9. These claims are dependent claims that depend from Claim 9 and are now allowable because of their dependency on allowable Claim 9. Thus, the rejection of Claims 10-12 and 14-15 should be withdrawn as well.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 16-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hillstrom. In response, the applicant has canceled Claims 16-23. Consequently, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-8 and 26-29 have been allowed. The applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

The preambles of Claims 5-8 have been amended to indicate that each claim is directed to a sheet material mounting assembly rather than a frame assembly for use as part of a sheet material mounting assembly. This amendment was made so that Claim 9 could be amended to depend from Claim 5 as indicated above.

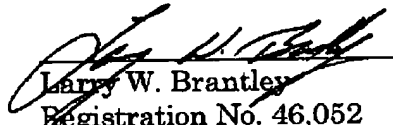
Claims 24 and 25 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the applicant has amended Claim 24 so that it is in independent form and includes all of the limitations of its base and intervening claims. In other words, Claim 24 has been amended so that it includes all of the limitations set forth in Claims 16-23. Accordingly, this claim is now allowable and the Examiner's objection should be withdrawn. Claim 25 is dependent on Claim 24 and is now allowable because Claim 24 is now allowable. The objection to this claim should be withdrawn as well.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 23-0035.

Conclusion

The applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and that action is hereby specifically requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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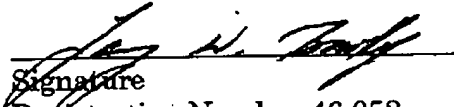
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Response and Amendment is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office using facsimile number 703-872-9326 on March 12, 2004.

Larry W. Brantley


Signature

Registration Number 46,052

March 12, 2004
Date